

JFW



Docket No.: 50395-133

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of	:	Customer Number: 20277
	:	
Osamu KASUU, et al.	:	Confirmation Number: 8955
	:	
Application No.: 10/068,852	:	Group Art Unit: 1731
	:	
Filed: February 11, 2002	:	Examiner: C. Lopez
	:	
For: METHOD FOR FUSION SPLICING OF OPTICAL FIBERS AND OPTICAL FIBER TRANSMISSION LINE		

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Mail Stop Restriction Requirement
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In the Office Action dated September 9, 2004, the Examiner imposed a Restriction Requirement pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §121, requiring election of either:

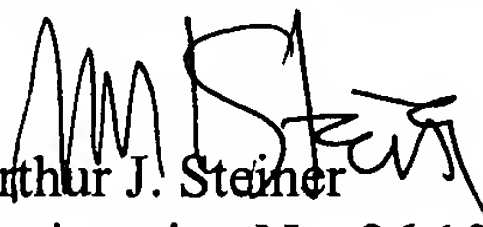
- Group I. Claims 1 through 3, directed to a method; or
- Group II. Claim 4, directed to an optical transmission line.

In response Applicants elect to prosecute method claims 1 through 3 (Group I). Favorable consideration of method claims 1 through 3 is solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

MCDERMOTT WILL & EMERY LLP


Arthur J. Steiner
Registration No. 26,106

600 13th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005-3096
202.756.8000 AJS:ntb
Facsimile: 202.756.8087
Date: September 28, 2004